

Chemicals Division

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8EHQ-0399-14410  
**Celanese**



8EHQ-99-14410

Telephone: 972-443-4000

MR 20637

March 17, 1999

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT # P 003 035 436

This submission contains no confidential business information.

Attn: TSCA Section 8(e) Coordinator  
Document Processing Center (TS-790)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

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Dear Sir or Madam:

The information below is submitted in accordance with the EPA's interpretation of Section 8(e) of the Toxic Substance Control Act on behalf of Celanese, Ltd.

A study was conducted for Celanese on methyl acetate (CAS# 79-20-9). Celanese does not believe that the data from this study constitutes a substantial risk. Nevertheless, this submission is intended to discharge any 8(e) responsibilities that might exist and should be processed in accordance with the EPA's "substantial risk" procedures.

A 4-week inhalation study with methyl acetate vapor in male and female rats was recently completed for Celanese. Animals were exposed to 0, 75, 350 or 2000 ppm of Methyl Acetate for 6 hours per day, 5 days per week for 4 weeks. The LOEL (Lowest Observed Effect Level) for Methyl Acetate is 2000 ppm in air. The major effect was damage to the nasal tissues in 19 of 20 rats tested at 2000 ppm. More specifically, degeneration of the olfactory epithelial tissue of moderate severity was observed on microscopic examination of nasal tissues. The NOAEL (No Observed Adverse Effect Level) is 350 ppm. Systemic toxicity (i.e., toxicity to tissues distant from the site of vapor contact) was not evident at any concentration level. Based on blood analyses taken immediately on cessation of the 4-week exposure period, Methyl Acetate was not measurable in the blood. It is therefore rapidly metabolized. Based on assessment of the bone marrow from treated and control animals from the inhalation study using the micronucleus method, Methyl Acetate was not mutagenic.

This information should be considered preliminary and must undergo quality assurance review at the laboratory before finalization. The final report will be submitted to the Agency under the Section 8(d) Health and Safety Study reporting obligation.

If any further information is required, do not hesitate to contact Debra Phillips, Coordinator, Product Stewardship at 972-443-4703.

Sincerely,

Jerry Dunn  
Vice President, Environmental, Health, and Safety  
Celanese

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**Hoechst**

Celanese  
A member of the Hoechst Group